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TELEGRAM

January 29, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 496 - PRIORITY)
TAGS: PHUM, ASEC, PREF, ELAB, KCRM, KFRD
Captions: None
Subject: G/TIP VISIT A SUCCESS: UAEG STRESSES COMMITMENT AND
COOPERATION IN COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 00496

SIPDIS
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ACTION: POL
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APPROVED: AMB: MMWAHBA
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DE RUEHAD #0496/01 0291403
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8152
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RUEAWJF/USINS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000496

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR G/TIP, INL, DRL, PRM, NEA/RA AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/29/08
TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: G/TIP VISIT A SUCCESS: UAEG STRESSES COMMITMENT
AND COOPERATION IN COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

REF: ABU DHABI 415

[1](#)1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba for
Reasons 1.5(B) and (D).

[1](#)2. (U) This message contains an action recommendation: See
paragraph 9.

[1](#)3. (SBU) SUMMARY: G/TIP Sally Neumann and NEA/RA Barbara
Keary visited the UAE (both Abu Dhabi and Dubai) from 22-26
January to engage with Emirati officials on the issue of
trafficking in persons (TIP), discuss current Emirati
actions to combat it, and recommend other actions for UAEG

consideration. The visitors met with policymakers from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Health and Labor and officials from the Dubai Police Department. The visitors also attended a camel race and discussed labor issues with foreign diplomats from those countries with the highest numbers of foreign workers resident in the UAE. The UAEG welcomed this opportunity to speak first-hand about what it has been doing to combat TIP and engage with USG experts on additional steps the UAE can take to curtail this trade in people. Across the board, Emirati officials stressed that the UAEG is committed to fighting TIP and requested training to assist the UAEG in detecting, monitoring and combating this transnational crime, which they have acknowledged is both a blight on the UAE's reputation and a threat to its national security. END SUMMARY.

14. (SBU) G/TIP Sally Neumann and NEA/RA Barbara Keary visited the United Arab Emirates from 1/22-26 to discuss trafficking in persons and the UAEG's efforts to monitor and combat it. On Thursday 22 January, Neumann and Keary attended a camel race sponsored by the Emirates Heritage Club. On Saturday 24 January, the visitors met separately in Abu Dhabi with officials from the Office of H.H. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin Zayid Al Nahyan, officials from the Ministry of Interior, and officials from the Ministry of Justice. The visitors also that day discussed foreign labor issues with foreign diplomats from the Embassies of India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia. (Note: The Pakistani diplomat invitee declined because the Pakistani Prime Minister was in town on an official visit. End note.) On Sunday 25 January, our visitors met in Abu Dhabi and then Dubai with officials from the Ministry of Health, officials from the Ministry of Labor, and officials from the Dubai Police Department. (Meetings and events to be reported septels.)

UAEG OFFICIALS ACROSS THE BOARD ACKNOWLEDGE TIP,
STRESS COMMITMENT TO FIGHT IT AND ASK FOR USG ASSISTANCE

15. (SBU) The Emiratis, from MinState Shaykh Hamdan down, welcomed the G/TIP visit and the opportunity to discuss with our visitors what the UAEG has been doing to combat TIP and to engage with USG experts on additional steps the UAE can take to curtail this trade in people (reftel). The UAEG's positive attitude to this visit was demonstrated by the early commitment to meetings and by the attendance and number of high-level policymakers at our official meetings. All Ministry meetings were led by Emiratis at U/S or Asst U/S level and attended by additional, working level, Emirati officials.

16. (SBU) Across the board, our Emirati interlocutors began the meetings by acknowledging that TIP exists in the UAE, primarily in the areas of child camel jockeys and women. They also all stressed that the UAEG from the top down (see reftel) -- is committed to combating this transnational crime that is also a matter of humanitarian concern to the UAEG senior leadership.

17. (SBU) Officials at the Ministries of Interior and Justice reiterated earlier requests for training programs to help the UAEG in its efforts to detect, monitor and combat trafficking in persons. Ministry of Labor officials also requested training and technical assistance in labor inspections. Ministry of Interior officials further requested that the USG assist in the organization of a regional conference on trafficking in persons to discuss strategies and best practices on determining the scope and extent of the problem as well as methods to monitor and combat and avenues for inter-governmental cooperation and coordination.

18. (C) COMMENT: This TIP visit echoes the success and productivity of the U.S.-UAE Strategic Dialogue held in Washington, D.C. in November 2002. All official

interlocutors were well prepared and eager to discuss the government's actions in this area -- no doubt motivated by the UAEG senior leadership's desire to improve its record on this issue. The Emiratis understand that we can only report on information that we have, and have promised to provide requested statistics and information relating to their efforts to fight TIP. The visit was enlightening in that our interlocutors provided information on programs of which we were previously unaware and also encouraging because they were willing to discuss their current and contemplated actions openly in the spirit of cooperation and coordination. END COMMENT.

¶9. (C) ACTION RECOMMENDATION: The Emiratis have repeatedly requested training to improve the UAEG's efforts to detect, monitor and combat TIP. As the 2003 Report deadline approaches, we should be as responsive to these requests as possible. We recommend that the Department provide information on training programs in the areas of TIP prevention, prosecution and victim assistance so that we may forward it to the UAEG for consideration. We also recommend that G/TIP consider seriously the UAEG's request for a USG-organized regional conference on TIP, which the UAEG will no doubt offer to host. END ACTION RECOMMENDATION.

¶10. (U) Post POC on TIP is Poloff Marlene Menard at menardmm2@state.gov.

WAHBA